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## NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN FOREST AND RANGE EXPERIMENT STATION

Missoula, Montana

April 25, 1942

No. 19

Christmas Tree Production in Western Montana in 1941 a/

From a small beginning less than 15 years ago, the commercial production of Christmas trees in western Montana has developed into an annual harvest supplying about one fifth of the national consumption and furnishing seasonal employment to hundreds of people. In addition to the trees, which are the principal product of this growing industry, there are springing up what may be termed "by-products industries" which utilize branches and trimmings from the stumps for decorative evergreen ropes, wreaths, sprays, and garlands. Various types of novelties such as corsages and decorated cones are also produced.

Since 1927, when Montana Christmas trees were first shipped to outside markets, there has been a steady upward trend of the industry, and in 1941 the total estimated production amounted to 3,082,650 trees. In 1940, 2,338,350 trees were produced; in 1939, 1,967,350; in 1938, 1,676,000; in 1937, 1,534,500; and in 1936, 1,262,500. For the years prior to 1936 comparable production statistics are not available. In other words, during the period from 1927 to 1935, inclusive, this industry had been growing up almost unnoticed outside of the particular communities involved.

As in previous seasons, the principal producing areas for 1941 were Lincoln County, which contributed 1,378,250 trees; Flathead County, with 1,125,250; and Missoula County, with 192,450. The leading shipping points were Eureka in Lincoln County and Kalispell in Flathead County, at which the number of carloads was identical, amounting to 214 each.

Practically all of the trees shipped from the State were Douglas-fir. Shipments went to all parts of the United States, but the bulk were sold in the Middle West with Chicago the chief destination. The most distant point east where carloads of trees were shipped was Philadelphia; and south, Dallas, Texas; and west, San Francisco.

Further details concerning the origin of the trees in western Montana are given in the attached table.



		R	Railr	o a d S	Shipment	onts	1/		Truck $\frac{2}{\cdot}$ :	A11 3/
County	Grea	Great Northern	Norther	n Pacific	C.M.St	C.M.St.P. &P.	T	Total	ship- :	shipments
	Car-	Trees	Car-	Trees	Car-	Trees	Car- loads	Trees	Trees	Trees
	.Number	Number	Number	Number:	Number	Number	: Number	Munber	Number :	Number
Flathead	: 219	219 1,040,250 :	1	1	1	1	219	1,040,250:	85,000	1,125,250
Granite	1	1	T	52,250 :	1	ı	: 11	52,250 :	8,000	60,250
Lake	1	1	13	61,750 :	1	1	: 13	61,750:	1	61,750
Lincoln	: 287	1,363,250:	1	1	1	1	: 287	1,363,250:	15,000 :	1,378,250
Mineral	١	1	4	: 000,61	11	52,250	15	71,250:	6,000:	77,250
Missoula	1	1	11	52,250 :	28	133,000	. 39	185,250:	7,200 :	192,450
Powell	1	1	1	1	2	33,250	2	33,250:		33,250
Ravalli	1	1	ω	38,000:	1	1	8	38,000:	15,700 :	53,700
Sanders	1	1	20	95,000	1	1	: 20	95,000	5,500	100,500
Total	506	506 2,403,500	67	318,250	46	218,500	619	2,940,250	142,400	3,082,650

Flathead County: Kalispell, 214 cars; Whitefish, 4 cars; Olney, 1 car. Granite County: Drummond, 11 cars. Lake County: Ronan, 7 cars; Polson, 6 cars. Lincoln County: Eureka, 214 cars; Libby, 41 cars; Rexford, 21 cars; Fortine, 9 cars; Troy, 2 cars. Mineral County: Superior, 9 cars; Alberton, 6 cars. Missoula County: Missoula, 39 cars. Powell County: Deer Lodge, 7 cars. Ravalli County: Darby, 8 cars. Sanders County: Plains, 20 cars. Origin of trees is as follows, by counties and shipping stations:

2/ Truck shipments (142,400 trees) represent a compilation of estimates made by district rangers and superthe Flathead, Kootenai, Lolo, Bitterroot, Cabinet, and Deerlodge National Forests. Visors of

3/ Origin of the total production (3,082,650 trees) is approximately as follows: State of Montana forests, 130,470 trees (4 percent); national forests, 405,880 trees (13 percent); private lands, 2,546,300 trees (83 percent).

The 405,880 trees cut on national forests originated as follows: Bitterroot, 26,717 trees; Cabinet, 6,185 The average price received by the State of Montana for trees The average stumpage price retrees; Flathead, 4,428 trees; Kootenai, 347,070 trees; Lolo, 21,480 trees. ceived for these trees was 3.2 cents each. cut from State forests was 3.9 cents each.

